

Gary, Paul The Davison entry in LHO's notebook 10/31/69

After writing you last night I took a look at this entry on 16H50. Then I got out the FBI transcription in which, in the past, I'd found interesting errors of various sorts (Like Cardes for Oswald's way of spelling Partes), 20205:685-b. There are interesting omissions and changes.

First of all, the identification of the name was added at a different time, with a different pen or pencil. The differences in shading and intensity are very clear.

Next, where the Commission has so thoughtfully put both the English and the alleged translation from the Russian, where Russian appears, in type, with each entry, here they have not. For the adjacent Russian there is Goman Demka, followed by a ?. Where in the book the number 20244 follows, with three Russian characters, the translation follows it with "Business (phone)".

Now, I have no idea whether Oswald organized the entries in this book in any way, with any significance, or whether in every case the entries are entirely haphazard. But I cannot fail to note that Mrs. Ed Davison is with his notations of the Dallas White Russians, and anti-Soviets all of a later period. He added them, of all the blank pages, facing Mrs. D.

The FBI's arrangement of this, on page 14 of its transcription (20205:685) is conveniently extended (unnecessarily, but by the judicious use of extra spaces) to a second page. The Commission takes the last line of the first page and the entry on the second for its printed caption, from which it eliminated one set of parens. The transcription of one of the lines is "Goman Demka (?) 20244 (Business (phone?))"

From the printed version, it would appear that a pair of blank pages follow. But from the FBI numbering, there are 5¹/₂, because their numbering goes from 35 to 41, where the left-hand pair of pages called one page is blank.

Somehow, there seemed to be something familiar about this. On a hunch I got out my file on the "Martello slip" and there I found that Oswald had prepared himself for the New Orleans arrest with notations including one very similar to one of these. The number 202440 is on that slip. It follows the very suggestive word "pouch" and something else I believe I could not make out (WWII:62). Paul has a copy of this slip, in Martello's transcription, in the appendix to C in NO, where, as I recall, it was part of CE1553.

There is another strange thing. The FBI transcription of Mrs. Davison's address is 404 F Tuxedo Rd, something the FBI reporting did not believe. For some reason the European manner of making a "7", with the horizontal line through it, is the manner used in the original. Oswald did not make his 7s this way, ordinarily.

If I cannot attribute any specific meaning to the above, I also think it just a little too much coincidental. I also believe it would be unwise to assume this is only coincidence, that of the many number in his book he could have taken 20244 off to have on him when arrested, where it seems to have no special meaning, and where the FBI's linguists make no effort to translate the adjacent Russian. I hope one of you knows someone who reads Russian and can learn the meaning of the original and whether the anglicized version is faithful.